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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

April 11, 1988

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Medstar Towing & Repair

Mark Spicer, Medstar Towing & Repair, 5521 2nd Ave. N, Great Falls
Robert Allen, 5621 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls 59401
Gudmond Sorensen, 5601 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls
Chas D. Fenner, 5617 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls
Richard Lewis Jr., 5521 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls
Kustom City Fiberglass, 5617½ 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls
Quality Paint & Body, 5525½ 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls
Dieter's German Auto, 5521 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls
Loy Elementary School, 501 57th North, Great Falls
Loretta Riley, 3420 3rd Ave. South, Great Falls 59405
Roger Anderson, Mayor, City of Great Falls, Box 5021, Great Falls 59403
Pete Frazier, City-County Health Dept., 1130 17th Ave. S, Great Falls
Robert Batista, Zoning Administrator, Courthouse, Great Falls 59403
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Complex, Helena
Documents Section, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Mark Spicer/dba/Medstar Towing & Repair.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

John Geach

Solid and Hazardous Waste Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division
Telephone (406) 444-2821

Encls.
JG/ba

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences, Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau

Project or Application Medstar Towing, Repair and Salvage

Description of Project Mr. Mark Spicer, owner of Medstar Towing and Repair, has
submitted an application to establish and license a motor vehicle wrecking facility
at 5521 2nd Ave. North, Great Falls, MT. The Preliminary Environmental Review is
being conducted in conjunction with this Department's review of the Medstar motor
vehicle wrecking facility license application.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution			X			X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quant- ity and quality				X		X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmen- tal resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeo- logical sites				X		X

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			X
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income			X			X
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment			X			X
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity			X			X
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals			X			X
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Cascade County Zoning Administration

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. Montana Historical Society, Cascade County Health Department

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS Not necessary

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach

Date: April 8, 1988

Medstar PER

General Comments

Medstar Towing and Repair has operated a vehicle towing and repair shop on the site of this proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility since 1980. This location has a fenced vehicle storage yard which has been used since approximately 1980 to store abandoned vehicles collected under contract with law enforcement agencies and Medstar customer repair vehicles.

Mr. Spicer wishes to expand his business by establishing a motor vehicle wrecking facility at this location. Such a facility would allow him to store vehicles for parts to be used in conjunction with his repair shop or resale.

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

2. Water Quality, quantity and distribution
3. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture

The soil at the location of this proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility contains high percentages of clays and silts. The permeabilities of these soils is rated at slow to very slow. Due to the soil's low permeability and its layering variations, shallow perched water tables are common in the area. These perched water tables are non-contiguous and contain insufficient volumes of water for developing into domestic water supplies.

The domestic water sources in the general area are deep wells (approximately 200 feet or greater) or cisterns.

A surface water drainage is located to the west of the proposed wrecking facility adjacent to the NE Bypass. The topography of the proposed yard is basically flat with no evidence of major surface water runoff courses into this drainage.

The improper disposal of motor vehicle coolants and lubricating oils can contaminate surface and groundwater supplies. The applicant has indicated any antifreeze which is drained from the vehicles will be reused if practical. Antifreeze which can not be reused will be disposed of as solid waste in the shop's trash.

The applicant does not anticipate generating large quantities of used lubricating oils. Currently, about 20 to 25 gallons of used oil is generated from the applicant's vehicle repair shop. The past disposal practice has been to use this oil for heating or dust control purposes. The applicant proposed to use the same practices for the disposal of any additional automotive lubricating oils generated by the vehicle wrecking facility.

The soil permeability, depth of domestic water supplies and the surface water run-off characteristics of this proposed wrecking facility indicate the potential of surface or ground water contamination is low.

4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

This proposed facility is currently being used as a vehicle storage yard for towed vehicles and customer repairs. The yard is presently devoid of vegetation and the establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility at this location will not result in additional vegetative impact.

5. Aesthetics

This proposed facility is currently fenced on all sides. A combination of fencing materials has been used including chain link with metal inserts, sheet metal and wood. The state motor vehicle wrecking facility shielding rules require no more than one type of shielding material to be used on each side of fencing. With the exception of the northern fence this facility meets this requirement. Mr. Spicer is currently in the process of replacing the wooden shielding on the northern fence with chain link fencing with metal insert slats. This project will be completed prior to licensing.

The aesthetics of the proposed vehicle storage yard have remained essentially the same for the past eight years that this yard has been used for the storage of towed vehicles. The majority of the adjacent property is used for commercial purposes which include several vehicle maintenance shops, a fiberglass manufacturer, and a self-service gas station. Several homes and a school are also adjacent to this proposed facility.

While aesthetic values are individually subjective, the past establishment of this facility and the adjacent commercial activity should lessen the aesthetic impact of the establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility at this location.

The establishment of a vehicle wrecking yard at this location conforms with all existing zoning regulations as certified by the Cascade County Zoning Administrator.

9. Historical and Archaeological sites

The Montana Historical Society records indicate no known archaeological or historical sites are located within the boundaries of this proposed facility.

Potential Impact of Human Environment

3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income
8. Quantity and distribution of employment

The development of this facility will result in the establishment of a small business. The employment requirements for this business may be limited to several employees. However, this employment and the employment requirements for the support services this business will utilize, will provide a positive employment impact for the community.

The establishment of a new business will increase the overall payroll of the community and provide increased local and state tax bases.

10. Demands for governmental services

The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will require administrative and inspection services of the County and State Health Departments.

11. Industrial and commercial activity

The establishment of the motor vehicle recycling and wrecking facility will provide a commercial source of used automotive parts. The reconditioning and reuse of parts provides a cost savings to the consumer and conserves energy and natural resources. Parts which can not be reconditioned or reused will be crushed and shipped to a secondary metals market for recycling.

13. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

The location of this proposed wrecking facility complies with existing local planning and zoning requirements.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

The establishment of this business will increase the traffic flow patterns on the roads leading to the facility. These increased traffic flows are not anticipated to significantly impact the traffic handling or load capabilities of these roads.

